

Grapevine

A decorative vine with green leaves and clusters of red, white, and purple grapes runs vertically along the left side of the page.

**VETERANS
HELPING
VETERANS**

Living at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville – March 16, 2007

*The
GRAPEVINE
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From the Administrator's desk ...

On Sunday, March 11th, the California National Guard 578th and 579th Engineer Battalions completed their work on Madison Hall and turned the building back over to the Home. General Bill Wade, Adjutant General of the California Guard, and Roger Brautigan, Undersecretary for Veterans Affairs, joined us for the brief ceremony, along with 50 of the guardsmen who have been doing the work for the past three months on their drill weekends. Command Sergeant Major Joe Menard, Headquarters, told me that every one of the nearly 100 members of his units participating in the project were volunteers, and that they had signed up for this project as a way to help their fellow soldiers who might someday come through our Home as part of the program for returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that we are working to establish. Steve Schilling, our Special Representative, has been serving as the program manager to plan and execute the work on the building and coordinate the other aspects of putting together the new program, which will be called "The Pathway Home." Our Plant Operations, Post Fund Enterprises, Food Service, Sanitation, and other services all helped to support and host the Guard members while they were here. Walter Kirby also hosted all of the unit members at a barbecue in the garden, and told them about Larry Lattman and the legacy of "Veterans Helping Veterans" at our Home. Many of the guardsmen commented on the friendliness and support of the members they spoke with in the Main Dining Room and elsewhere during the time they were here. Thanks to everyone who went out of the way to make them feel at home.

When the "Pathway Home" program is in full operation, it will serve 34 returning veterans at a time in a 60-120 day program that will be augmented by a follow-up system to ensure veterans stay connected once they return to their own communities. It will be an excellent addition to our community of services, and provide a way we can reach out to and help our country's newest "Great Generation." We will keep you informed as we get closer to the day we can open the program.



**Marcella McCormack
Administrator**

Name that Shelter!

By Alex Carrillo

A \$50 cash prize is being offered to the home Member who names the new bus stop that has been built next to the Lincoln Theater on the Alameda. The contest will begin with this announcement in this issue of the Grapevine. Entries must be submitted to Marcella McCormack's office or the Public Information Office. Entry names will be judged by Marcella McCormack. All entries must contain the contestant's name, address, phone number and the contestant's name for the bus stop.

The Pathway Home

By Lou Zauner

Photos by Glen Nock, Jody Price, Lou Zauner

Sunday, March 11, 2007, was the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in the history of the California State Veterans Home in Yountville: the inauguration of a haven of return and outpouring of appreciation for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

In a solemn but optimistic ceremony beginning at 11 a.m., at the entrance of the newly-renovated Section G, Madison Hall; Deputy Administrator Bart Buechner introduced the dignitaries and the important

persons instrumental in creating an innovative and contemporary oasis for the returning injured -The Pathway Home.

During the months of January and February, members of Company "C" of the California National Guard 578th and 579th Engineer Battalions had been working to remodel Madison Hall. This was a former

long-term care unit badly in need of renovation and repair. The National Guard volunteers worked from Fridays through Sundays putting in over 1,200 man-hours to prepare this home to bridge the gap for California veterans between federal services and the California communities to which they will return.

Dignitaries at the Ceremony were welcomed by Home Administrator Marcella McCormack: Guest Speakers Roger Brautigan, Under-Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and Major General William H. Wade, II, Adjutant General of the California National Guard. Comments were made by Command Sergeant Major Joseph Menard, Headquarters 579th Engineering Brigade who stated every one of the nearly 100 members of his units who

Continued on page 4





*left to right:
General Wade,
CDVA Under
Secretary Roger
Brautigan,
Administra-
tor Marcella
McCormack,
Deputy Admin-
istrator Bart
Buechner, Steve
Schilling.*

Continued from page 3

participated in the project were volunteers. “They did this to help their fellow soldiers who may some-day need the services this building will provide.”

Steve Schilling, a Navy Reserve Master Chief Petty Officer, served as the project coordinator for the Veterans Home, and had spoken to all of the unit members as they began work on the building. “These guys understand what this place is about, and it’s really great to see the older (World War II, Korea and Vietnam) veterans coming over to talk to them.

This Home has been all about veterans helping veterans for a hundred and twenty-three years, and now it’s happening again with a whole new generation.”

After the speakers’ introductions and comments, a poignant moment took place when General Wade presented the keys for the new transition home to Home Administrator Marcella McCormack. Following, Under-Secretary Brautigan commented on the emotional comradeship of the association between the National Guard volunteers in uniform and the Home veterans: “a true bonding of brotherhood.”

When the program is in full operation, it will serve 34 returning veterans at a time in a 60-120 day program that will be augmented by a follow-up system to ensure veterans stay connected once they return to their own communities.

The number “13” will play a key role when the official-day opening comes. That day will welcome 13 new arrivals from the Global War on Terror to follow the first 13 veterans of past wars which arrived 123 years ago to the Veterans Home in 1884.

Cover Photo

Home Member Pat Patterson talks with one of the National Guard members at the barbe-cue on Saturday night.



right: The dignitaries, guests and National Guard members enter The Pathway Home together for the first time.



A big “thank you” goes out to Jose Charles for his wonderful job on the drawing and painting the sign “The Pathway Home” on Section G. Jose and family jumped at the chance to volunteer their time and talent to add the finishing touches to the building.



above: Jose’s daughter and son-in-law, Vanessa and Dan Ghiringhelli.

left: Jose Charles

Gratitude in the form of a Barbecue

There are only so many ways to say “thank you” and I think that one of the best is through a man’s stomach. From all of the smiles on everyone’s face, they agreed that this was the best way to tell them thank you. Walt and his crew made wonderful trip tip, salads and beans. Following the great main course was carrot cake and ice cream that was devoured in just minutes. There is no sense in trying to be shy around these fellows.

Continued on page 6



November 24, 2006



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The 579th Engineer Battalion has gone above and beyond for the Veterans Home. These young men worked very hard over the past few months, putting their hearts and souls into it. It was not only physical work on Section G. It went much further then through the kindness and stories that were shared with our Home Members. This is a time that will go down in history of the true meaning of Veterans helping Veterans.



left: General Wade presented military challenge coins to Walt Kirby and his crew as a "thank you" for their service to the hungry National Guard members. Military challenge coins are also known as military coins, unit coins, memorial coins, unit challenge coins, or commander's coin. The coin represents affiliation, support or patronage to the organization minted on the coin. The challenge coin is a treasured and respected representation of the organization minted on the coin.



Medal of Honor Day

By Chris Williams, photos by Glen Nock

Just one day after awarding the latest Medal of Honor to Bruce Crandall, a Vietnam War veteran, the U.S. Congress asked the President to designate March 25th as “Medal of Honor Day.” Since 1863, just 3,444 individuals have received the nation’s highest military honor for courage under fire ... 112 are living today. One, Alejandro Ruiz, is in Holderman Hospital. His family and friends will gather this month to mark the event and honor him for his service to our country.

Ruiz’ citation, awarded for action in Okinawa in April, 1945, reads: “His squad, brought under a hail of machinegun fire and a vicious grenade attack, was pinned down. Pfc. Ruiz seized an automatic rifle and lunged through the flying grenades and rifle fire for the top of the emplacement. When an enemy soldier charged him, his rifle jammed. Ruiz whirled on his assailant and clubbed him down. Then he ran back through bullets and grenades, seized more ammunition and another automatic rifle, and made again for the pillbox. Enemy fire was now concentrated on him, but he charged on, reaching the position, and, in plain view, he climbed to the top. Leaping from one opening to another, he sent burst after burst into the pillbox, completely destroying the position. Pfc. Ruiz’s heroic conduct, in the face of overwhelming odds, saved the lives of many comrades and eliminated an obstacle that would have checked his unit’s advance.”

The Medal of Honor was first established by the U.S. Navy in 1861 and was quickly followed by the Army version. The Air Force medal was struck in 1963 after it had become a separate entity. It is the only medal which is worn around the neck. Recipients have included Mary Walker, a surgeon at the Battle of Bull Run in 1851, 87 African-Americans, 41 Hispanic-Americans, 31 Asian Americans, and 22 Native Americans.

Colonel Miles Holderman, who served as California Veterans Home Administrator for many years, received his MOH for a series of actions between October 2nd & 8th in the forest of Argonne. Wounded several times during that week, Holderman commanded a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy. On 6 October, though wounded, he rushed through enemy machine gun and shell fire and carried 2 wounded men to a place of safety.

Three Medal of Honor Winners are buried in our California Veterans Home Cemetery. This proud tradition adds luster to our lives.





It's that time of year!

When Spring has arrived and the Valley is aglow with mustard flowers, magnolia blossoms and many other beautiful heralds of spring.

Thank you to Glen Nock for these beautiful photographs of our home.

As I Heard It ...

By Lou Zauner

A Masterful Truckee High School Band Performance

Occasionally a totally surprising and delightful musical treat comes along, which makes being a reporter for The Grapevine sheer joy. Such a musical treat came to the Hospital Recreation Area on Sunday, March 4, for the pleasure of some 75 audience members, most Hospital Residents. Beginning close to 2 pm the 60 young musicians performed for 45 minutes as a Big Band Era ensemble; and then reassembled into symphonic position for another hour of additional music. Led by an exceptional teacher, Music Director Dave Green, the band brought a totally mesmerizing nostalgic program to the assembly.

With eyes closed, I heard Glen Miller playing “Tuxedo Junction,” “Moonlight Serenade,” “Pennsylvania 6-5000,” “Little Brown Jug,” and “In The Mood.” Following were more familiar renditions of the 40’s and 50’s: “Fly Me to the Moon,” “Satin Doll,” “My Funny Valentine,” “Minnie The Mootcher.” I didn’t want it to end!

After a short break, chairs were moved close to the audience, and the talented young group of music-makers became a symphonic orchestra continuing with baton-leading Dave Green to play a different medley of songs: “The Marine Anthem,” “Loch Lomond,” classical television themes from the programs of the 50’s and 60’s. Following were songs from famous Disney movies and Duke Ellington classics: “In my Solitude” and “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore.” Then began the musical memories from World War II: “I’ll Be Seeing You,” “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree (with anyone else but me),” “Praise The Lord and Pass the Ammunition.” All compositions and sounds were totally professional!

The band members were accompanied by three band moms, two band dads, and Music Director/Band Leader Dave Green. Prior to their visit to the Home, they had performed two concerts in Sacramento which required them to load the equipment truck early Friday morning at Truckee in 12-degree weather and end up in Yountville in 75-degree weather. Except for the piano, the Band brought all their own instruments ... some larger than their owners.

Dave Green, rightfully proud of his young talents, explained that all the funding for the group-trips and concerts are provided by the students themselves by playing for dances, holding TV marathons and working with Truckee civic groups.

Congratulations to all of the Truckee High School Band members, Dave Green and the moms and dads who contributed so much to an exceptionally inspiring and joyful afternoon. With thanks and appreciation, we hope you all come back again with another such performance worthy of appearance in the Lincoln Theater.





Poetry and Writers

By Lou Zauner

On Saturday, March 10; nine poets and writers presented their endeavors to a gathering of 20 interested connoisseurs at the Main Dining Room from 2:15 to 4 p.m.

John Pray, a writer from Fairfield, moderated the program

headed by Poet Monica Reller who read several of her newest works in addition to quotations from her book, *On Wings of Abandos*. Following, was Poet Debby Cooper who had written a book titled *Pizza for Breakfast* and Poet Dorothy Lee Hansen, who had written a book *On a Snowy Night in Zanosic* – poems about mid-eastern Europe.

Among the others reciting their work was Bob Shelby from Benicia, and Home Member Tom Sarbeck, Jim Lyle and Mark Mathews.



Let's Get Creative

By Chris Williams

The annual art show is approaching rapidly; you can enter at the Creative Arts Center between March 18th & 24th. Each entrant can display two items which will be shown in an exhibit at Lincoln Library. Brandy has getting a preview by going to art classes and even offering herself as a model to inspire their production.

Kate Coleson gave me some tricks on how to stay still while I'm being drawn. Sleeping seems to work for that.

The exhibit is always a pleasant surprise; we forget how much talent there is around here. All media are welcome, so enter and let us all enjoy your work.

Need help with your tax return?

Call Gay Sherman, Social Work Service, at 944-4570, or stop by her office on 3E in Holderman.

For all you Western "Shoot-em-Up Fans"

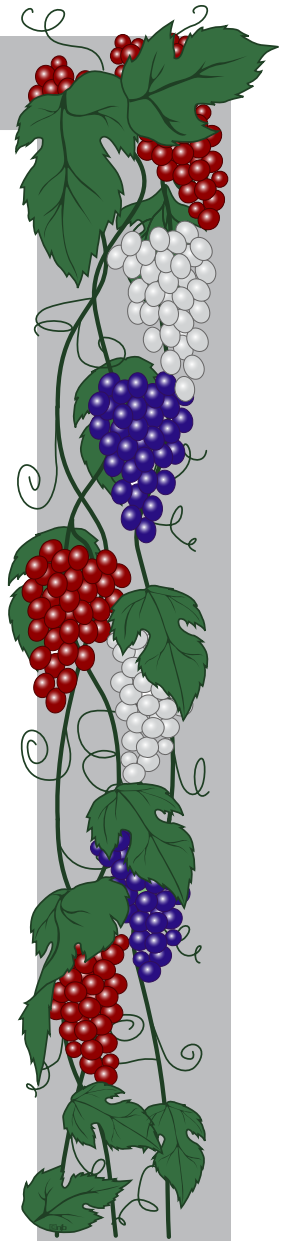
Our Video Library has just been donated 200 VCR tapes thanks to Ann Bernavito of San Francisco. They are of Western vintage, going back to the early 30's & 40's. Remember these popular names? – Johnny MacBrown, Hoot Gibson, Bob Steele, Buster Crabbe, Tom Tyler, Tim McCoy, Tex Ritter, Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Wild Bill Elliot, Ken Maynard and many, many more *all available now!*

Grapevine Survey

This is a Customer Satisfaction Survey. We would appreciate it if you would take a moment to answer this questionnaire. Your feedback will enable the Public Information Office and the Grapevine staff to better meet the needs of the Home Members and Staff. Please return this completed survey to the Public Information Office.

Circle "Yes" or "No" and add comments when needed. Your input is important to us —

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1) Do you have access to each new issue of the Grapevine? | Yes | No |
| If "No", where do you live? Section _____ Ward _____ | | |
| 2) Are you satisfied with the topics that are covered in the Grapevine? | Yes | No |
| 3) Are there topics that you would like to see added? | Yes | No |
| 4) What would you like to see more of in the Grapevine? | | |
| a) Home events? | Yes | No |
| b) Obituaries? | Yes | No |
| c) Employment Opportunities? | Yes | No |
| Home Member Compensated Volunteer Positions? | Yes | No |
| State Employment Positions? | Yes | No |
| d) Pictures? | Yes | No |
| e) Other: | | |
| | | |
| 5) How would you like to improve the Grapevine? | | |
| a) Color issues? | Yes | No |
| b) More pages? | Yes | No |
| c) Subscription service? | Yes | No |
| d) Other: | | |



LINCOLN *Theater*

**Tuesday
March 20
7:00 pm**



USAF Galaxy Brass Band The United States Air Force Academy Band Ensemble "Galaxy Brass" is coming to Lincoln Theater in Yountville for a FREE performance on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The event is FREE and open to the public, but reservations are required and every attendee must have a ticket. Call the Lincoln Theater Box Office at 707-944-1300 for free tickets which will be issued on a first-come basis. When it comes to "knock-your-socks-off" entertainment, Galaxy Brass wins the prize. Comprised of eleven brass, percussion and vocal specialists, this unique ensemble lights up stages across America with brassy hits, enticing vocals and audience-engaging choreography. The group presents exciting original arrangements, from traditional brass music to today's Broadway favorites to classic rock 'n roll. Galaxy Brass is an innovative concept, blending the very best from the world of brass ensembles with the sizzle of '70s horn bands, a unique variety that entertains audiences of all ages. Galaxy Brass performs for hundreds of thousands each year supporting Air Force troop morale, recruiting and community relations missions. Established in 1998, Galaxy Brass' exciting presentations are redefining and elevating America's traditional idea of military bands.

**Friday
March 23
8:00 pm**



Lila Downs Presented in partnership with Jacalyn Kane Productions Lila Down's new wave crossborder Latino music transcends cultural barriers and infuses blues, jazz and traditional cubias into a powerful musical, cultural and political statement. The emotional vibrancy of Lila's music delves deep into the hearts and minds of common people, invoking struggles, lost loves and legends. Lila's CD Una Sangra (One Blood) earned a 2004 Latin Grammy, and her performance on the soundtrack of the movie Frida earned her much deserved critical acclaim.

**Sunday
March 25
5:00 pm**



Vienna Choir Boys The Vienna Choir Boys is one of the oldest boys' choirs in the world. For nearly five hundred years they have been a symbol of Austria. In addition to classical choir favorites - from Bach to contemporary music - the Vienna Choir Boys will perform short staged works and children's operas, which allow the boys to show off their skills as actors and comedians, and even as instrumentalists. The Vienna Choir Boys combines music with poetry, dance, theatre and visual arts. Bring the entire family to enjoy this performance!

March Programs at the Napa Valley Museum

The Napa Valley Museum will present the following programs in March, in conjunction with the exhibition, Innovation & Adaptation - Winery Architecture in the Napa Valley, on view through March 25, 2007:

Great Railway Travels of the World with Morgan Lawrence, Travel Journalist Morgan gives a slide presentation and talk on Switzerland's famous Glacier Express (the slowest express train in the world) across the Swiss Alps, America's legendary Cumbres-Toltec Railroad (the finest and most spectacular example of steam era mountain railroading in North America) and Canada's popular "Arctic Circle" Algoma Central Railway. Free with admission. Call 707.944.0500 for reservations.

Wednesday
March 21
2 to 4 pm



Napa Valley Symphony

Welcome to a Napa Valley Tradition...

Sunday March 18, 2007 3:00 PM: Classical IV : John Covelli, piano Grieg, Piano Concerto, Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique - Refreshing and vibrant.

While recognized as one of the more versatile conductors of his generation, John Covelli also has been known and respected as an extraordinary pianist. A Chicago-born piano prodigy studying since age 4, as a child he won composing prizes and other awards, and performed numerous concerts and broadcast recitals, including a performance with the Chicago Symphony at age 9. As a teenager, he was the only concert pianist ever to win the famous Godfrey Talent Scout Program and appeared in a series of nationwide CBS-TV performances.



His New York debut drew rave notices. While conductor and soloist of the famed Seventh Army Symphony, he was selected special musical ambassador for USIS, gleaning accolades as featured touring soloist throughout Europe.

As a winner in two of Europe's most prestigious piano competitions -- the Queen Elizabeth of Brussels, and Busoni International Piano Competition in Bolzano, Italy -- Covelli was launched from youthful prodigy to an international performer of major standing.

2007 Grapevine Deadlines and Distribution Dates

Month	Deadline	Distribution
Mar	12, 26	2, 16, 30
Apr	9, 23	13, 27
May	7, 21	11, 25
Jun	4, 18, 29	8, 22
Jul	16, 30	6, 20
Aug	13, 27	3, 17, 31
Sep	10, 24	14, 28
Oct	5, 22	12, 26
Nov	5, 15	9, 21
Dec	3, 17, 31	7, 21



Residential Care Special Events

Sign up early! Activities can fill quickly. All activities are subject to change due to bus and driver availability.

March 2007

Date	Time	Event	Bus	Site	Signup
18 Sun	7:30 am	Napa Senior Center Brunch	MBS		Yes
	3:00 pm	John Covelli & Symphone		LT	Yes
20 Tue	1:00 pm	Hess Winery Tour	MBS		Yes
	7:00 pm	The Galaxy Brass AF Band		LT	Yes
22 Thu	10:00 am	See's Candy Sale		HRA	
23 Fri	5:00 pm	Warriors Game	MDR		Yes
	8:00 pm	Lila Downs Latino Music		LT	Yes
24 Sat	10:00 am	Tax Assistance		LL	
	10:30 am	Women's History with Travis		HRA	
25 Sun	5:00 pm	Vienna Boys Choir		LT	Yes
28 Wed	8:15 am	SF Ferry Trip	MBS		Yes
	12:30 pm	LeMelange Academy	MDR		Yes
29 Thu	10:00 am	Bunch for Lunch, Chili's	MBS		Yes

Key – 1C/1D: Hospital 1C/1D patio; **Bor:** Borman Field; **Chp:** Chapel; **GH:** Grant Hall; **GR:** Games Room; **HL:** Hospital Lobby; **HRA:** Hospital Recreation Area; **LL:** Lee Lounge; **LT:** Lincoln Theater; **MBS:** Main Bus Stop; **MDR:** Main Dining Room; **MPG:** Main Picnic Grounds; **SF:** San Francisco; **Tav:** Tavern; **VHC:** Veterans Home Cemetery; **VGC:** Vintners Golf Course; **VHL:** Veterans Home Lanes; **XII:** Annex II; **Ynt:** Yountville; **YVP:** Yountville Veterans Park.

The 14th Annual "A Taste of Yountville"

Saturday March 24th, 11am - 5pm

The Yountville Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center and the Town of Yountville welcomes you to "A Taste of Yountville!" The all-Yountville showcase will feature traditional samplings of gourmet restaurant fare, olive oils, vinegars, mustards, fine wines and micro-brews.

- Tasting tickets, commemorative wine glasses and Passports will be sold on site.
- Live entertainment will filter throughout Yountville's downtown area.
- Win fabulous, gourmet prizes.
- Experience Yountville's world-class restaurants through its "Wine & Dine Around" program featuring prix-fixe menus for lunch and dinner. The following Yountville restaurants will be participating beginning March 16th thru April 1st: Bistro Jeanty; Brix; Etoile; Hurley's Restaurant & Bar; Mustard's Grill; and, PJ Steak.
- The French Laundry Garden Tours

For more information call the Yountville Chamber of Commerce at 707.944.0904 or visit our website at www.yountville.com



MOVIE NIGHT IN GRANT HALL

Fri, Mar 16 – “Flicka”

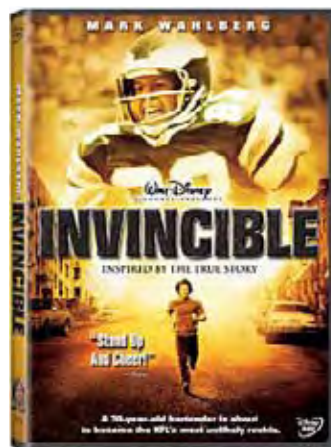
This new (2006) drama is a loose adaptation of the book “My Friend Flicka” and stars Alison Lohman, Tim McGraw and Maria Bello. Beautiful horses roam in beautiful countryside with mountain views. The 16-year-old daughter sets out to tame a wild mustang and the interaction with the horse and her family result in a heartwarming movie. An above average family entertainment.

Wed, Mar 21 – “Melvin and Howard”

A 1980 comedy-drama starring Jason Robards, Mary Steenburgen and Paul LeMat. The film is based on a real-life story in which Melvin Dummar says he picked up a hitchhiker he claims was Howard Hughes. Dummar further produces a will naming himself as heir to the Hughes’ fortune. Oscar winning Steenburgen as Dummar’s wife provides many laughs. Bo Goldman’s script also won as Academy Award. ★★½

Fri, Mar 23 – “Invincible”

This new (2006) football drama stars Mark Wahlberg and Greg Kinnear. It is based on a true story of a bartender who tries-out for the Philadelphia Eagles and astonishingly, makes the team. The film’s story and hero has been called the “Rocky” of the football field. Produced by the Disney studio, it is close to a family picture language-wise and otherwise. An above average, new entertainment.



Wed, Mar 28 – “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape”

This 1993 slice-of-life drama stars young Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCapprio. The story tells of a young man (Depp) in a small, dead-end town saddled with the responsibility of caring for a younger, somewhat retarded brother (DiCapprio) and is depressed by his obese mother, who hasn’t left the house in seven years. These are first-rate performances ... especially by the young DiCapprio in this off-beat drama. The cast includes Juliett Lewis, Mary Steenburgen, Darleen Cates and John C Reilly. ★★★

Fri, Mar 30 – “Scoop”

This new (2006) Woody Allen latest film is described as a comedy-mystery thriller. It stars Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Ian McShane and Woody Allen. The movie is a twisted tale of murder and mystery uncovered by a beautiful college journalist (Johansson). There are interesting twists and turns along with lots of laughs. At least one major critic has called this Allen’s funniest movie in 10 years ... delightful.



GRANT HALL
Theater doors
open at 5:15 pm
Wednesdays &
Fridays

Special selected
presentations at
5:30 pm

Feature Film
begins at 6:00 pm

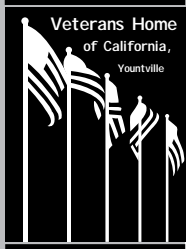
The Digital
Theater is
sponsored by the
Veterans
Remembrance
Committee,
The MW&R Fund
and AMVETS

Neil Remnant,
Movie
Coordinator

Monday Night Movies in the HRA

March 19 – “South Pacific” Rogers & Hammerstein musical with Mitzi Gaynor and Rosanno Brazzi (1958)

March 26 – “42nd Street” with Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler, Ginger Rogers (1933)

A large, faint, circular logo for the AMVETS Service Foundation is centered in the background. It features a red circle with the words "AMERICAN VETERANS" in white, and a purple circle with the word "AMVETS" in white. The circles are surrounded by a wreath of yellow leaves.

The *Veterans Home Media Program* gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the *AMVETS Service Foundation* in supporting *KVET TV*, the *Grapevine*, and the *Veterans History Program*.

GRAPEVINE

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For
Information
about the
Veterans
Home
call: 1-800-
404-VETS